

Remarks

Claims 1-13 remain pending in this application after entry of this paper. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 to more particularly point out the invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the private time source is in the form of a local running clock, and that the published time source is in the form of a local running clock. In addition, claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2.

The previous claims were all rejected in the final action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on various combinations wherein the primary reference was Nissl (U.S. Patent No. 6,530,023).


Nissl describes a particular approach to updating an internal time source based on an external time source, where certain conditions must be met prior to proceeding with the update. In attempting to read previous claim 1 on Nissl, the Examiner deemed that the last valid time signal tE that is stored in Nissl is a published time source. Applicants have amended claim 1 to more particularly point out that the published time source is in the form of a local running clock, and Applicants contend that this last valid time signal tE is not a published time source as recited by claim 1 as this last valid time signal tE is only a particular time signal as opposed to being a time source as recited by claim 1.

Claims 2-13 are dependent claims and are also believed to be patentable. Regarding claim 3, it now depends from claim 2 and specifically recites first and second crystal oscillators stabilizing the private and published time sources which are mounted to the printed circuit board. To the extent that the Examiner still deems the signal tE as the published time, this is only a stored value and there is no motivation to provide any stabilizing crystal oscillator.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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